



CRAIG RUTTLE USA TODAY NETWORK

Trucks and other vehicles pass over the Peace Bridge near the border that connects Buffalo, New York, and Fort Erie, Ontario, Canada, right, earlier this year. President Donald Trump has followed through on his threat to hike tariffs on many exports from Canada to 35%.

Trump sets 10% base global tariff, hits Canada with 35% rate

BY CATHERINE LUCEY AND JOSH WINGROVE
Bloomberg News

WASHINGTON President Donald Trump announced a slew of new tariffs, including a 10% global minimum and 15% or higher duties for countries with trade surpluses with the U.S., as he forged ahead with his effort to reshape international commerce.

The baseline rates for many trading partners remain unchanged from the duties Trump imposed in April, which will come as a relief to investors after the president had previously said it could go higher. Yet his move to raise tariffs on Canadian goods to 35% threatens to inject fresh tensions into an already strained relationship.

Most of the rates will take effect after midnight on Aug. 7 to allow time for U.S. Customs and Border Protection to make necessary changes to collect the levies. Trump signed the directive just hours before his prior Aug. 1 deadline for higher tariffs to kick in on dozens of trading partners.

After some initial tremors, equities markets were largely expected to take the announcement in stride as some trade uncertainty has now dissipated, said Shane Oliver, a Sydney-based chief investment officer at AMP Ltd.

“The reality is that we’re still going to see higher tariff than Pre-Liberation day and we’ll start to see some econom-

ic impact of that in the months ahead. There’s still uncertainty about China, Mexico has been delayed by another 90 days and details around sectoral tariffs are also yet to come,” Oliver said.

The announcement brings to a close, at least for now, months of wait-and-see about how Trump would set his country-based tariffs, which he billed as the centerpiece of his plan to shrink trade deficits and revive American manufacturing.

Trump twice delayed his so-called reciprocal tariffs, first announced in April, to allow time for negotiations, first after markets panicked and then as foreign governments bargained to get better terms from the U.S.

In the end, imports from about 40 countries will face the new 15% rate and roughly a dozen economies’ products will be hit with higher duties, either because they reached a deal or Trump sent them a letter unilaterally setting import taxes. The latter group has the highest goods-trade surpluses with the U.S.

Some of those were expected, such as a 25% levy on Indian exports that Trump announced this week on social media. Others included charges of 20% on Taiwanese products and 30% on South African goods. Thailand and Cambodia, two countries that were said to have struck a last-minute deal, received a 19% duty.

Other details are still forthcoming, including so-called “rules of origin”

to decide which products are transshipped, or routed through another country, and thus would face higher rates, a senior U.S. official said. A decision will be made in the coming weeks, according to the official.

In a separate order, Trump followed through on his threat to hike tariffs on exports from Canada, one of the U.S.’s largest trading partners, from 25%. That change excludes goods that are covered under the North American trade pact he negotiated in his first term.

That stood in contrast to the 90-day extension Mexico received to negotiate a better agreement.

The lower 10% rates are expected to apply to a wide range of mostly smaller- and medium-sized economies that Trump showed little interest in bargaining with.

The senior U.S. official said there is no date yet when revised auto tariff rates would be implemented. Trump has announced deals with the European Union, Japan and South Korea to lower duties on their vehicle exports to 15% from the general rate of 25%.

One big exception from this week’s deadline is China, which faces an Aug. 12 deadline for its tariff truce with the U.S. to expire. The Trump administration has signaled that is likely to be extended. No final decision has been made but the recent U.S.-China talks in Stockholm were positive, the official said.

FBI redacted Trump’s name in Epstein files for privacy

BY JASON LEOPOLD
Bloomberg News

WASHINGTON The Federal Bureau of Investigation redacted President Donald Trump’s name and those of other high-profile individuals from government files related to Jeffrey Epstein, according to three people familiar with the matter.

The redactions were made by a team of FBI employees tasked with reviewing the Epstein files for potential public release. The names were withheld under privacy protections because those individuals, including Trump, were private citizens when the federal investigation into Epstein began in 2006, the people said. They spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the matter publicly.

The appearance of a person’s name in the documents does not indicate they were under investigation or even accused of wrongdoing.

The review was part of a broader effort sparked by Trump’s campaign promise to “declassify” files related to Epstein, which his MAGA base has long requested. In March, FBI Director Kash Patel directed his special agents from the New York and Washington field offices to join the bureau’s FOIA employees at the agency’s sprawling Central Records Complex in Winchester, Virginia, and another building a few miles away.

Responding to public pressure, FBI personnel were instructed to search for and review every single Epstein-related document and determine what could be released. That included a mountain of material accumulated by the FBI over nearly two decades, including grand jury testimony, prosecutors’ case files, as well as tens of thousands of pages of the bureau’s own investigative files on Epstein.

It was a herculean task that involved as many as 1,000 FBI agents and other personnel pulling all-nighters while poring



SDNY TNS

The U.S. attorney’s office released images during the trial of Ghislaine Maxwell, left, who was convicted on federal charges relating to accusations in the sexual exploitation of girls with sex offender Jeffrey Epstein, middle. At right is Jean-Luc Brunel.

through more than 100,000 documents, according to a July letter from Sen. Dick Durbin to U.S. Attorney General Pam Bondi.

The employees reviewed the records using the Freedom of Information Act as their guide for deciding what information should be withheld. That alone isn’t uncommon. In the FOIA, Congress established nine exemptions as a way to balance the public’s right to know against the government’s need to protect sensitive interests, such as national security, official deliberations, ongoing law enforcement proceedings or privacy. When such competing interests arise in non-FOIA matters, those exemptions are often applied even if the exact language set forth in the FOIA statute doesn’t appear in the final record.

While reviewing the Epstein files, FBI personnel identified numerous references to Trump in the documents, the people familiar with the matter said. Dozens of other high-profile public figures also appeared, the people said.

In preparation for potential public release, the documents then went to a unit of FOIA officers who applied redactions in accordance with the nine exemptions. The people familiar with the matter said that Trump’s name, along with other high-profile individuals, was blacked out because he

was a private citizen when the federal investigation of Epstein was launched in 2006.

Last month, the DOJ and the FBI concluded that “no further disclosure” of the files “would be appropriate or warranted.”

Epstein avoided federal sex-trafficking charges in 2008 when he agreed to plead guilty to state charges in Florida for soliciting prostitution. In July 2019, following an investigation by the Miami Herald that also scrutinized the integrity of the government’s probe, Epstein was indicted on federal charges of sex trafficking of minors. A month later, he died by suicide in his jail cell, federal law enforcement authorities said, while awaiting trial.

A White House spokesperson would not respond to questions about the redactions of Trump’s name, instead referring queries to the FBI. The FBI declined to comment. The Justice Department did not respond to multiple requests for comment.

In a statement Friday after Bloomberg first reported the redactions, Durbin said that Trump “has the power to unilaterally help fix this by consenting to the release of his name in the files to the public to fulfill the promises of Attorney General Bondi that the public would see the ‘full Epstein files.’ ”

FROM PAGE 1A TRENCH

Thursday afternoon. Emergency crews located his body around 11:45 p.m. after a nine-and-a-half-hour search, a Kansas City, Kansas, Police Department spokesperson said.

Dave Reno, a spokesperson for the public works department of the Unified Government of

Wyandotte County and KCK, told The Star that the fiber optic installation project “was done by a private company for a utility that had no affiliation with either the Unified Government or (the Board of Public Utilities).”

“The UG had no work scheduled for that site,” Reno said. “Any work contemplated was solely scheduled by the private company employing contractors on site at the time

of the accident. No permits were issued as this was not a public right of way but instead was a railroad right of way.”

The status of the sewer location check was still listed as “not complete/in progress” as of Wednesday, 811 records show.

WHY DID CONSTRUCTION CONTINUE?

Rodriguez was a foreman for K&W Underground, an Olathe-based contractor working to relocate fiber optic cables on behalf of Lumen Technologies, a telecommunications company headquartered in Monroe, Louisiana.

Asked who determined that it was safe for the construction crew to work the day Rodriguez died, K&W Underground President Bill Reidy told The Star he could not comment.

“I cannot discuss it at this point. We still have an ongoing investigation,” Reidy said in a phone call.

KCKPD’s Major Case Unit has opened a death investigation, and the Occupational Safety Health Administration and other agencies are investigating the cause of the trench collapse, police spokesperson Nancy Chartrand previously said.

A spokesperson for Lumen Technologies also cited the active investigations, saying the company is “not in a position to share additional details about project decisions or timelines at this time.”

“We are fully cooperating with K&W and relevant authorities to understand the circumstances of this incident,” spokesperson Joe Goode said in an email.

“Our thoughts remain with the family, friends,

and colleagues of Francisco Rodriguez during this incredibly difficult time.”

Reno, the public works spokesperson, said that for utility location services through Kansas 811, the Unified Government and BPU contract with USIC to mark their sewer and water utilities, respectively.

“As such, It was not a BPU worker nor was it a UG worker that made the comment ‘Cannot mark sewer due to the rain from yesterday....’ That comment would have been made by the person from USIC doing the location service on behalf of both BPU and the UG,” Reno said.

811 records don’t document any utility locator returning to the construction site after deciding it was too dangerous on Tuesday, July 22.

USIC did not respond to

a request for comment.

After morning thunderstorms and light afternoon rain last Monday, archived weather records show KCK did not receive any more precipitation until Thursday evening, when emergency crews were searching for Rodriguez in the collapsed trench.

Matthew Kelly, mkelly@kcstar.com

CORRECTIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS

The mother of Carlos Pacheco, a candidate for District 5 Board of Commissioners in Wyandotte County, was involved with several WyCo organizations and was a board member of El Centro. She has never been a teacher in the Kansas City, Kansas school district. A July 31 story on Page 12A contained incorrect information.

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THE KANSAS CITY STAR

290-240 (ISSN 0745-1067)

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The Kansas City Star is published daily, except Saturday. 5151 Merriam Drive, Merriam, Kansas 66203 (by appointment only.) Periodicals Postage Paid at Kansas City, MO. (USPS 290-240.) Postmaster: Send all UAA to CFS : NON-POSTAL & MILITARY FACILITIES: send address corrections to McClatchy 1601 Alhambra Blvd Suite 100 Sacramento, CA 95816.

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